

REDEMPTORIST MONASTERY AND CHURCH, NORTH PERTH



PLACE INFORMATION	
Place name	Redemptorist Monastery and Church
Other names	
Place type	Individual building or group

HERITAGE LISTING	
inHerit ID:	2218
State Heritage Register:	17 March 2006
Other Listing:	Perth Draft Inventory 99-01 YES 31 Dec 1999 Classified by the National Trust Classified 11 Jun 2001

SITE LOCATION	
Street address	188 Vincent
Locality	North Perth
Survey	LOT: 1 D/P: 33790
Vol/folio	43/297A
Reserve	—

SIGNIFICANCE	
Level of significance	Exceptional Essential to the heritage of the area. Rare or outstanding example. Consider for nomination for State Register of Heritage Places if not already included.
Management category	Category 1 The place should be retained and conserved. Any alterations or extensions should reinforce the significance of the place and be in accordance with a Conservation Plan if one is in place.
Statement of significance	<p>The place is a landmark as a large and imposing structure in an open setting, which, together with its mature trees, may be seen from a number of vantage points in the area and Perth.</p> <p>The place is an excellent example of the work of architects Michael and James Cavanagh;</p> <p>The place is an excellent and intact example of a Federation Gothic style complex, located in a park-like setting, with elegant interiors, well detailed features, and is very well constructed.</p> <p>The Retreat House built in clinker brick and off form concrete, is a good example of the Late Twentieth Century Perth Regional style.</p> <p>The place is a well-used Church, highly valued by Western Australia's Catholic community for its religious and spiritual associations, and for the site's long association with the Redemptorist Order.</p> <p>The place is one of a small number of monasteries remaining in operation in Western Australia.</p> <p>The place contributes to the community's sense of place as a well-known religious complex.</p>

PLACE USE	
Original use	Religious: Monastery or Convent Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Current use	Religious: Monastery or Convent Religious: Church, Cathedral or Chapel
Other use	Commercial: Restaurant

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Construction date	1903-1967
Walls	Brick Stone Concrete
Roof	Terracotta tile Concrete tile
Architectural Style	Federation Gothic Late 20th-Century Perth Regional
Physical description	This substantial three storey building complex is symmetrically arranged about a south facing pedimented four storey entry tower with flanking corner towers. It is basically a three storey dormitory block with the large Chapel forming a western wing, matched by a projecting gabled eastern wing, to form a wide, but shallow, entry court. A further residential wing projects beyond the eastern gabled wing. The Chapel has a separate front entry in its south wall. The building is a vigorous and picturesque design with the rusticated walls set against dressed dado, dressed opening surrounds and mullions, dressed string courses, label moulds and parapet cappings. The composition is enlivened by the treatment of the windows on the third floor as gabled dormers, set against the tiled roof, tall dressed chimneys and corner tourelles on gables providing a silhouette of constant change and interest

CONSTRUCTION DETAILS	
Physical description	The dormitory blocks are served by double height loggias, with twinned columns on tall plinths to both levels. On the upper level the balustrades span between the plinths. The entrance porch is capped with castellated pinnacles and a crucifix finial. The Chapel is in the form of a Latin Cross set north-south, with a great south window of five lancet windows supporting three wheel windows within a dressed Gothic arch, above a rusticated and crenellated entry porch, with diagonal stepped corner buttresses and smaller buttresses flanking the solid timber arched entry door. The south gable, with its decorated gable and cross finial is flanked by pinnacled towers. There is a side porch in the west transept. The western façade has a regular pattern of buttresses separating 5 bays with central lancet windows. Both the eastern and western transepts are gabled with great windows, narrower than the south window, with counter set and stepped corner buttresses. The sanctuary is housed in the semi-circular apse at the north end, formed with buttressed bays and a conical hipped roof. The complex is worthy of comparison with the notable St Patrick's Seminary, Manly, of 1885, designed by Sherrin and Hennessey. Set well back from the street in a landscaped setting with a central driveway
Condition	Good
Integrity	High
Authenticity	High

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The Redemptorist Monastery and Chapel was built for the Redemptorist Fathers, a Catholic order, it was designed by Michael and James Cavanagh, who were responsible for a number of buildings for the Catholic Church and its Orders.

Father Thomas O'Farrell of the Redemptorist Fathers arrived in WA on 22 September 1899, at the invitation of Bishop Matthew Gibney. When the rest of the Redemptorist group arrived in October 1899, they took up residence in two adjoining houses at Highgate Hill (either Nos. 46-48 or Nos. 52-54 Vincent Street, or possibly both) and for the next four years ministered to the needs of the Highgate Hill parish, from the corrugated iron shed which served as the Sacred Heart Church at this time. During this period, Bishop Gibney decided that the Redemptorist should have a Church-owned property in Vincent Street, North Perth. However, the North Perth property was split by the undeveloped Chelmsford Road and had already been surveyed into housing allotments and the city sanitary dump adjoined the property. The authorities co-operated with the wishes of Bishop Gibney and the Vincent Street property was transferred to the Congregation of the Most Holy Redeemer as a single block. The City of Perth also resolved to relocate the sanitary dump and re-plan Chelmsford Road (extending from east to west) so as to leave the block intact.

In October 1902, a Foundation Stone was laid at a ceremony attended by many local dignitaries including the Perth Lord Mayor, Richard Haynes. An article in the local press describing this event provides a lengthy description of the building and its fittings and fixtures. Contractor Mr W. Fairweather was engaged for the construction for a fee of £8778. Many local individuals and groups donated to the costs of the new buildings.

The Redemptorist Monastery and Church was opened on Sunday, 13 September 1903, with the Bishop Gibney and Abbot Torres from New Norcia officiating. The surrounding land was subdivided for residential development.

New confessionals were installed in the Church circa 1907 and in 1911-1912, the east wing was added. This was also designed by Michael and James Cavanagh. Contractor T. J. Green completed additions to the Church, including a sanctuary and transept in 1922 which were again designed by Michael and James Cavanagh.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

The shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was erected in 1925 and the shrine of Little Flower was a later addition.

The Monastery was used for the annual retreat for clergy, including Archbishop Clune who had rooms set aside for his use.

Though the Redemptorist are a distinct order within the Roman Catholic Church, their congregation is the broad Catholic Church. The Redemptorist have also provided retreats to clergy, religious and Catholic school children over the years. For example, the clergy of Perth and Bunbury came to the monastery each year, and the various institutes and schools of the Brothers and Sisters in Western Australia were all part of the regular ministry of the Fathers.

The chancel walls are decorated with two tiers of murals that were painted in 1961 and 1962 by Karl Matzek, an immigrant Croatian artist. The murals depict the lives and martyrdom of St. Peter and Paul.

In the early 1960s, it was decided that a special retreat house be built in order to cater for more visitors. Following a fund raising campaign amongst the parishes, the complex designed by Kierath Waldron was completed and blessed by Archbishop Prindiville on 19 March 1967. Later stand alone additions of meeting and dining rooms, kitchen and dormitory blocks were designed by Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown.

In the 1990s, alterations were made to the ground floor monastery kitchen and the first and second floor bathrooms, and a new lift installed.

On 27 November 2008 the Redemptorist Monastery and Chapel suffered from a fire in Room 18 on the second floor.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Historic theme	Cultural Life: Religion Social Services: General social Services	
Associations	Michael Cavanaugh W. Fairweather Keirath Waldron T. J. Green Karl Matzek Oldham Boas Ednie-Brown	Architect Builder Architect Contractor Artist Architects
Sources	P2218 Redemptorist Monastery and Church Assessment Documentation, 2006. DPLH. Municipal Heritage Inventory 2006 Landgate Aerial photographs 1953-2024. Redemptorist Monastery website https://cssr.org.au/perth/ The WA Record, 8 November 1902, p. 12.	

ARCHIVAL IMAGES



Redemptorist Monastery, 1905. SLWA image b1763515_2



Redemptorist Monastery, 1905. SLWA image b1763515_1

ADDITIONAL PHOTOGRAPHS

